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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 30, 2025

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# Gathering brings light to Powers Bluff history, future

**SIRENA MANKINS**  
EDITOR

ARPIN – Powers Bluff County Park is a tale of two parks. On the north side you can find swathes of forest cut away, making room for tubing and ski hills. ATV trails cut through the landscape, and flags mark the paths where new bike trails will be.

On the south side, trees

hundreds of years old reach to the sky, some still bearing the marks of the Potawatomi, Ho Chunk, Ojibwe and Menominee people who called Skunk Hill, or Tahqua-kik, home.

“This hill has been in use for over 3000 years,” said Fred Pigeon, an enrolled member of the Prairie Band Potawatomi tribe. “It was a stopping point on the trade

While the south side remains largely undisturbed., the north side of Powers Bluff County Park has been cleared for winter activities, including tobogganing and skiing.  
**Photos by Sirena Mankins / City Times**

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route from Central America up to Escanaba, Michigan, where the copper mine was. So you find a lot of copper down in Central America that came from here.”

That history and the fight to preserve it will be celebrated at the first-ever Spring Gathering, organized by Friends of Powers Bluff and spearheaded by Fred and his wife, Germaine.

“When I was 7 years old, my grandfather, Jim White Pigeon, brought me to Skunk Hill,” Fred said. “It was a special trip, just he and I. When he was sure he had my attention, he spoke. ‘This place has been sacred to our Anishnabik

A circle of stones outlines ancient burial sites at Powers Bluff County Park.

since time before beginning. Someday you will be the one to fight to save it.”

That fight began in 1999, when Wood County officials

at the time had plans to expand the county park as a way to bring in more money. The tubing and ski hills were already there, but they

wanted to add to them. Their solution: Cut down the trees on the other side.

**Powers Bluff**  
CONTINUES ON PAGE 3

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# Bakery owner serves more than a meal

SIRENA MANKINS  
EDITOR

ROME – Ordinary people can do extraordinary things with simple acts.

For the owner of Slice of Heaven Bakery in the town of Rome, it comes naturally.

Rebecca LaCount says she grew up in a very large family of 16 children. When she was 12, LaCount says her sister, Sue, died. From that tragedy, she learned how simple acts of kindness could have a big impact.

“The local bakery in town donated day old bread and donuts after her funeral,” LaCount said in an email. “This generosity went on for years. Sue died, then my grandma who lived with us died, then my other grandma, then another sister, then my brother, then another brother ...

“Month after month, year after year, this bakery faithfully donated to our family. And on birthdays, there just so happened to be a cake in there for us.”

She vowed to give back, with her family setting the example. They volunteered at their church for dinners and festivals, where there also was a Day of Compassion. That day, LaCount said they fed about 5,000 people and also offered free haircuts and entertainment.

With her bakery, she said it’s the perfect place to give back.

“Holidays can be so lonely,” she said. “I’m so honored that I can provide a meal for those who may not afford it, or provide a place for the lonely to congregate. And even if people aren’t lonely or if they can buy their own dinner, maybe they just don’t wanna cook.”

This year for Easter, they served more than 100 people and collected donations for the Hannah Center in Wisconsin Rapids. They also offered free meals on Thanksgiving and Christmas.

“My goal every day at the bakery is to provide a place where people feel safe, loved and welcomed,” LaCount said. “I’m so happy we can provide that.

“People have been generous with their time, money and love throughout my life. I’m just thrilled that it’s my turn.”



Volunteers serve a free Easter dinner at Slice of Heaven Bakery in the town of Rome.

Submitted photos



People enjoy a free Easter dinner at Slice of Heaven Bakery. The bakery’s owner, Rebecca LaCount, has been giving back her entire life, inspired by the kindness shown to her family during moments of tragedy.

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### Department of Public Works – SUMMER EMPLOYMENT

The Nekoosa Public Works Department is seeking students for summer employment at our public works department for the summer of 2025. Students must have recently completed high school or completed college semester studies and plan to continue with school in the fall of 2025.

Applications can be located on the City of Nekoosa website (cityofnekoosa.org).

Applications should be returned by email to [rschmidt@nekoosawi.com](mailto:rschmidt@nekoosawi.com).

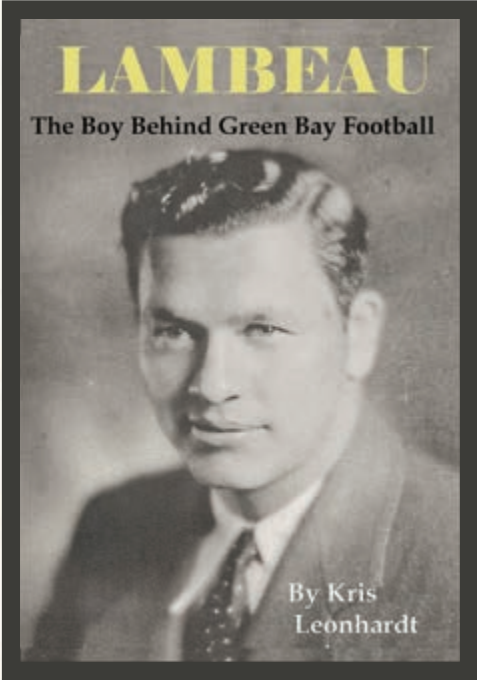
Summer pay for first time students is \$15.00 per hour. Summer employment hours are 4 – 10-hour days starting the week after Memorial Day. Working days are Monday through Thursday with 3-day weekends.

Students should be in good physical condition, be willing to work outside. Work efforts will be on tree care, grass maintenance in parks, city properties and our cemetery.

Any questions can be directed to Rick Schmidt via my email or by phone at 715-886-7889.

# “A fascinating TALE

of dedication that will inspire fans and readers alike. If you love football, community and tales of grit, this book is a must-read. ”



By Kris Leonhardt

The story of the beginning of the Green Bay Packers and the life of Earl Louis “Curly” Lambeau are so intertwined that it is hard to imagine one without the other.

From the streets of Green Bay, Lambeau developed a passion for football and grew that yearning into a football team that would exist long past his lifetime.

Like the Packers, Lambeau’s story is a tale of adversity and challenge, but also a story of triumph and perseverance. While his personal life and professional career were wrought with challenge, his legacy continues to resonate in the Green Bay community, including a massive structure along Lombardi Avenue that shines a light on his contribution to the professional team.

## AVAILABLE AT:

**Bosse’s News Depot, De Pere**  
**Neville Public Museum of Brown County, Green Bay**  
**Janke’s Book Store, Wausau ■ Bookcellar, Waupaca**  
**Thimbleberry Books, Marshfield**  
**Amazon: <https://a.co/d/fj1A3NE>**  
**Shop MMC: <https://shopmmclocal.com/product/lambeau>**





The north side of Powers Bluff County Park has been cleared for winter activities, including tobogganing and skiing, while the south side remains largely undisturbed.

POWERS BLUFF

FROM PAGE 1

But the tribes consider the hill a sacred place, where they would gather to hold ceremonies, collect medicinal plants, make maple sugar and bury their loved ones, according to Tara Mitchell, the tribal historic preservation officer for the Prairie Band Potawatomi.

The shallow graves often were covered by logs and marked by stones. Planted near the head was a tree sapling.

“The thought was that the sapling got its nutrients from grandpa, and therefore, as long as that tree lived, you could come and talk to grandpa,” Fred said. “He was in that tree.”

Because of rocky nature of the hill, those burial sites differed from White people’s.

“Their challenge was that, yes, there’s not any place up here where you can dig six feet and put a burial in, but



A rock formation known as the Singing Indian greets visitors to Powers Bluff County Park. Fred and Germaine Pigeon have organized the first Spring Gathering at the park.

that was not the custom,” Germaine added. “The natives were very much different about wanting to keep their loved ones close.”

The trees also served as a type of street sign. Indians would tie down branches of “talking trees” in certain ways to create elbows that would point in a certain direction.

“It’s like a scavenger hunt ... because it’ll take you to the next tree, which takes you to the next tree,” Fred said. “The distance from the

trunk to the elbow lets you know where to walk around the tree and look.”

They could guide someone to a hidden water source or a cache of food or other supplies.

When the Pigeons heard about the county’s plans for the park, they spoke out at County Board meetings. Archaeologists were brought in by the county, while the tribes brought in cadaver dogs. The two sides were at an impasse.

“They kept telling us if we



Fred Pigeon shows drawings of some of the Native American mosaics found at Powers Bluff County Park.

IF YOU GO

What: Spring Gathering & Homecoming  
When: 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 3  
Where: Powers Bluff County Park, 6990 Bluff Drive, Arpin  
Parking: 7073 County Road N; shuttle bus available  
Organizers say to bring a chair

Schedule

- 10 a.m., opening ceremony, Dominic Ortiz, Prairie Band Potawatomi
- 10 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m., spring wildflower walk, Robert Freckmann
- 11 a.m., Skunk Hill history, Paul Demain, La Courte Oreilles Reservation
- 1 p.m., medicinal plants, Misty Cook, Stockbridge Munsee Nation
- 2 p.m. raised beadwork Master Artist, Karen Ann Hoffman, Oneida Nation

Ongoing

- Silent auction (final call at 2:15 p.m.)
- Children’s crafts and gift giveaway
- Jackie Redwoman, Little River Band of the Ottawa Nation
- Fred Pidgeon, Prairie Band Potawatomi, and his wife, Germaine, will share their 24 years of collected photos and information on the history of Skunk Hill.
- Friends of Powers Bluff, welcome and information tent
- Bike corral and fair,

Note: All events will be at the top of the hill except the bike corral, which will be at 7073 County Road N



Fred Pigeon demonstrates how to use a devining rod. He and his wife, Germaine, have organized the first Spring Gathering at Powers Bluff County Park. Photos by Sirena Mankins / City Times

could prove that there was a burial” they would change their plans, Germaine said. “They wanted name of the person, birth date, death date and exactly where they were. Then they would put a five foot circle around that site and preserve it.”

The burial grounds are just part of the Native American history that can be found at the park. There are also dance rings and mosaics, including leaping fish, deer, bear and an eagle.

“Each of those formations had a spot where they could put a sacrifice dish, where

they could honor their loved ones,” Germaine said. “We were told by an elder from way northern Wisconsin that before there were tribes, there were clans. And what we have there is a medicine group with clan symbols. They would get together and decide, do we go to war? Don’t we go to war?”

Eventually, the county and tribal officials came to an agreement, which led to the formation of Friends of Powers Bluff.

Now, when major work needs to be done, the Pigeons said the county brings

in tribal elders. There are plans in place to expand the mountain bike trails on the park’s north side.

“But this part of the hill, the sacred 80 acres ... it’ll become a silent park of solitude and reflection, a safe place to go in that because when this road deteriorates, they’re not going to replace it,” Germaine said. “If people want to get here, they’ll have to either park on the other side and walk in from the back, or park at the lower edge and walk in.”

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**EVENTS/SPECTATOR SPORTS**  
Wisconsin Rapids Area Retired Educators Association Meeting · Mon. 5/5, Bullseye Country Club Restaurant, Wisconsin Rapids. Program by John Edwards High School Chorus from Port Edwards. Collection for Family Center. Starts at 11 am. \$20 for lunch. 715-887-3448

Birding Tour at Sandhill Wildlife Area · Sat. 5/10, Sandhill Wildlife Area, 1715 County Rd X, Babcock. Registration starts at 7:30 am. Tour start at 8 am. \$10 fee. [vpalen@tds.net](mailto:vpalen@tds.net)

Sandhill Wildlife Area Open House · Sat. 5/10, Sandhill Wildlife Area, 1715 County Rd X, Babcock. Theme: “All About Whitetail Deer”. Free event with Deer Ecology talk, followed by wagon tour to view management practices. Nature Store, interactive activities, educational displays & free refreshments. Starts at 10 am. [vpalen@tds.net](mailto:vpalen@tds.net)

Game Night with the Legion · Sat. 5/10, American Legion Hall, Rudolph. Cards & board games for all ages. Coffee, punch & popcorn provided. Starts at 6 pm. 715-435-3662

Christian Women’s Connection Ladies Brunch · Wed. 5/14, Elk’s Club, Wisconsin Rapids. Speaker, Judith Ebert, Milwaukee, WI topic

will be “Looking for love in ALL the Wrong Places”. Wisconsin Rapids Let’s Create Crafting Boutique will provide the special feature. Reservations are essential. Starts at 9:30 am. \$20 includes meal, tip and program. 815-994-1317 or 701-741-5905 for reservations by 5/6

**ONGOING**  
Celebrate Recovery · Every Tuesday, hosted by Love Inc. at St. Lawrence Church basement, 530 10 th St N, Wisconsin Rapids. Come share adult Fellowship through hurts, hang-ups & habits guided by the Beatitudes in a 12 step format. Non denominational. Starts at 6:30 pm. 715-424-5683 for questions

**OUTDOORS**  
Wisconsin Valley Golf Association Tournament · Sun. 5/4, Bullseye Golf Club, Wisconsin Rapids. Individual stroke golf tournament open to those who enjoy golf. Starts at 9 am. \$55. [wivalleygolf.org](http://wivalleygolf.org)

**ARTS/EXHIBITS**  
The Alexander House · Opens Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1131, Wisconsin River Drive, Port Edwards. Art gallery and historical museum with a focus on lumbering and papermaking exhibits. Opens 1 pm-4 pm. <http://alexanderhouseonline.org/>

Central Wisconsin Cultural Center · Opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays & Thursdays, 2651 8 th St S, Wisconsin Rapids. Open from 10 am-5 pm.

Free admission. <http://www.culturalcenterarts.com/index.html>

South Wood County Historical Museum · 540 3 rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. Museum opens Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Sundays from 1 pm-4 pm Office will be open Tues.-Thurs. from 10 am-3 pm. <http://www.swch-museum.com/>

Laura Ingalls Wilder, Hamerstroms & WI Prairie Chicken Festival · Tues.-Wed. 4/1-4/30, 540 3 rd St. S, Wisconsin Rapids. This exhibit will showcase the journey of author Laura Ingalls Wilder, who captured the essence of frontier life in her Little House series. There will also be nature & bird photographs on display by local photographer, Joe Riederer. There will also be memorabilia, photos & articles on display for the Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival & when available, the costume of WPCF’s mascot, Boomin’ Bob, will be showcased. <http://www.swch-museum.com/>

**LIFELINES**  
Blood Drive · Thurs. 5/1, ODC Inc, 1191 Huntington Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10 am. [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org)

Blood Drive · Mon. 5/12, Lake Arrowhead, 1195 Apache Ln, Nekoosa. Starts at 12 pm. [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org)

Blood Drive · Wed. 5/14, McMillan Library, 490 E Grand Ave, Wisconsin Rapids. Starts at 10 am. [Redcrossblood.org](http://Redcrossblood.org)

Children’s House gets \$100K grant

**FOR THE CITY TIMES**  
WOOD COUNTY – An area child care center will be able to expand after earning a grant through the American Rescue Plan Act. Childcaring Inc. awarded the \$100,000 Capacity Building Grant to Children’s House of Montessori, a licensed group child care center in Marshfield. The funding is aimed at addressing the ongoing need for increased child care access in Wood County and central Wisconsin. It will support Children’s House in expanding its capacity by creating new child care slots, enhancing facility infrastructure and supporting

ing the needs of the community, Childcaring said in a release. The funding is part of a broader initiative to invest in sustainable, long-term solutions to the region’s child care shortage. They also said it’s part of Childcaring’s ongoing commitment to strengthening early childhood systems and supporting

working families across the region. “This grant is a game-changer for our center and the families we serve,” said Megan DeLeske, director of Children’s House of Montessori. “We’ll be able to welcome more children into a safe, nurturing environment while also providing better support for our educators. This investment helps ensure that parents in our community can go to work knowing their children are receiving high-quality care.” Kelly Borchardt, director of Childcaring, emphasized the importance of community collaboration and innovation in addressing the region’s child care challenges. “This funding is not just about expanding a building – it’s about strengthening the foundation of our workforce and supporting the well-being of families,” Borchardt said. “We’re thrilled to see this grant going to a center that’s deeply rooted in its community and dedicated to growing access for those who need it most.” The ARPA funding also offers a separate opportunity for Family Child Care Providers to receive up to a \$10,000 grant. Another opportunity to apply for a \$100,000 Group Center grant will be announced this fall. Individuals interested in starting a regulated child care program in Wood County are encouraged to reach out to Childcaring. Childcaring offers child care resource and referral services, supports child care providers and helps families find care that meets their needs. For more information about Childcaring’s grant programs and services, go to [www.childcaring.org](http://www.childcaring.org), email [info@childcaring.org](mailto:info@childcaring.org) or call (715) 841-9490.

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MAY FEATURES

Reoccurring Events at Lester Public Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Drive, Nekoosa, WI, 54457

- Read Between the Pines Book Club: 2nd Tuesday of the month @ 6:30 PM
- Wednesday Movies\*: 1st Wednesday of the month @ 5:30 PM
- Fiber Arts Group: Wednesdays @ 1:00 PM
- Rome Garden Club\*: Wednesdays @ 9:30 AM
- Lake Arrowhead Artists: 1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 1:00-4:00 PM
- Community Card Games Group: 2nd & 4th Wednesday @ 1:30-3:30 PM
- AA: Thursdays @ 7:00 PM
- Coffee with Friends: Fridays @ 9:15 AM
- Traditional Yoga: Fridays @ 11:00 AM
- Children's Story Time: Wednesdays @ 9:30 AM
- Maker's Space: Stop in during open hours!

BELLYdance Fitness @ the Library  
Saturday, May 3 & 10, 2025 • 10:00 AM 11:00 AM  
Lester Public Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Drive, Nekoosa, WI

Try a low-impact workout that gets you moving! No matter your size, race, age, mobility, or ability level — you deserve to celebrate your body with joyful movement! With BELLYdance Fitness, improve strength & muscle tone, your grace & confidence, balance & posture, and have fun! This FREE event is sponsored by the Friends of the Library!

Flower Power: Decorate and Grow!  
Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup> 3:30 pm-4:30pm  
Lester Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Drive, Nekoosa, WI

Kids are invited to paint their own flowerpot and plant zinnia seeds. All supplies are provided for this free program! Registration is required as space is limited.

Friends of Sandhill Open House  
Saturday, May 10, 2025 • 10:00 AM 3:00 PM  
Sandhill Wildlife Area  
1715 County Highway X, Babcock, WI, 54413

This year we're all about white-tailed deer. After a deer ecology talk, we'll go into the property by wagon to view some of the management practices in action. We invite you to come at any time during the day to check out FREE activities for all ages, a nature store and informational displays. We'll also be hosting a pre-event birding tour at 8 a.m., which requires a \$10 fee upon arrival (between 7:30 and 8 a.m.). Register for the birding tour by contacting Vicki Palen, [vpalen@tds.net](mailto:vpalen@tds.net) or 715-652-3131

Kid's Coloring Contest  
Monday, May 12, 2025 9:00 AM  
Saturday, May 17, 2025 2:00 PM  
Lester Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Drive, Nekoosa, WI

Pick up a coloring sheet from the library and create your very own masterpiece. All kids who participate will receive a prize!

Rome Farmers Market  
Friday, May 16, 2025  
9:00 AM 1:00 PM  
Rome Farmers Market  
274 Geneva Trail, Nekoosa, WI, 54457

DIY Lake Life Sign  
Friday, May 16, 2025  
2:00 PM 3:00 PM  
Lester Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Drive, Nekoosa, WI

Celebrate the Rome, WI lake community by painting your own wooden "Lake Life" sign. This is a free program for adults, and all supplies are included! Registration is required as space is limited.

Universe in the Park  
Saturday, May 17, 2025  
7:30 PM 9:30 PM  
Sandhill Wildlife Area  
1715 County Highway X, Babcock, WI, 54413

Did you know Sandhill has one of the darkest night skies in our state? Join UW-Madison astronomers as they briefly present information and observations about the night sky, the moon and other celestial objects. After that, we'll host a star party where you will get a chance to view objects in the sky through telescopes and chat with expert astronomers. This is a FREE opportunity, but please register by contacting the natural resources educator, Haylee Kraker.

Rome Garden Chats: Tackling Wildlife Damage  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025 • 9:30 AM 11:00 AM  
Lester Public Library of Rome  
1157 Rome Center Drive, Nekoosa, WI

Discussion/Led by Janell Wehr, UW-Extension Educator



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PUBLISHER'S LETTER

The Human Condition  
And Its Many Variations

Dear Reader,

Remember the song “Just Dropped In (to see what condition my condition was in)” by Kenny Rogers and the First Edition? In today’s world, rare indeed is the person who enjoys what we might call perfect health. It seems that nearly everyone is managing some condition, whether it’s asthma, high blood pressure, cholesterol issues, diabetes, heart disease or one of countless other ailments. The human condition itself appears fraught with conditions, ranging from the mild to the severe.

We try our best—eating well, exercising, following doctors’ orders—but even with all our efforts, good health isn’t guaranteed. It can be elusive, slipping through our fingers no matter how tightly we try to hold on. And so, we adapt. We manage. We roll with the flow, accepting that our bodies, like our lives, are imperfect.

Perhaps it’s this imperfection that makes the human experience all the more poignant. Life is never entirely smooth, nor is health, but we endure and continue on, adjusting as we go. In a way, the conditions we face are just part of the larger condition we all share: being human.

**PATRICK J. WOOD**  
Publisher  
Author of “Reflections” a new book now available on Amazon.



HAPPY

Mother's Day

Housing coalition  
plans fundraiser

**FOR THE CITY TIMES**

MARSHFIELD – An area nonprofit group focused on creating affordable housing is planning its annual fundraiser for May 3.

Everyone Needs a Community Inc., or ENC, is partnering with Wisconsin Housing Preservation Corp. to build a new neighborhood housing model in Marshfield, with a focus on affordable rentals.

The lack of affordable housing can be especially hard on people with developmental disabilities, as well as aging adults. Studies show that the retirement-age adults are one of the fastest growing new homeless groups in America today, in part because of the shortage of affordable housing.

ENC officials say they’re dedicated to fos-

tering a deeper understanding of neurodiversity and autism while promoting healthy aging. People on the autism spectrum make up between 2 and 3% of the population.

The working concept is 40 units of two-bedroom cottage-type apartments in duplexes or triplexes, each with a garage. The walkable community would include a community center focused on healthy aging and understanding autism.

The fundraiser will be May 3 at the Eagles Club, 1104 S. Oak Ave., Marshfield. Doors open at 4:30 p.m., with music featuring DJ Bob Halle from 5 to 9:30 p.m. There will be a photo booth, raffle baskets, silent auction and games. For more information, go ENC’s website, <https://e-n-a-c.org>

Farm to School council  
seeks members

**CITY TIMES STAFF**

The Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) is accepting nominations for the Farm to School Advisory Council until midnight on May 15.

A seat is available in the at-large category. Members serve three-year terms, and the council meets at least four times per year.

DATCP Secretary Randy Romanski will appoint the new member, and they may start their term at the summer 2025 Farm to School meeting.

The Farm to School Advisory Council makes key recommendations to the DATCP Secretary that guide the development of farm to school efforts in Wisconsin and provides an annual farm to school report for the Wisconsin legislature.

To include a variety of perspectives on farm to school efforts, the council’s 15 members represent the following categories:

- One DATCP employee appointed by the DATCP Secretary
- One employee of the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) appointed by the DHS Secretary
- One employee of the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction (DPI) appointed by the DPI Superintendent
- Twelve other members who are farmers, experts in child health, school food service personnel, and other persons with interests in agriculture, nutrition and education, all appointed by the DATCP Secretary.

Nomination forms and more information are available at <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/AgDevelopment/FarmToSchool.aspx>

Questions and nomination forms should be sent to DATCP Farm to School and Institution Program, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53708, or emailed to DATCP Farm to School and Institution Specialist April Yancer at (608) 224-5017 or [april.yancer@wisconsin.gov](mailto:april.yancer@wisconsin.gov).

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# Aspirus offers free seminar on AFib, heart health

**FOR THE CITY NEWS**  
Stevens Point, Wis. – Atrial fibrillation, commonly known as AFib, is a common but serious heart condition that significantly increases the risk of stroke and heart failure if left untreated. Symptoms such as fatigue, shortness of breath, and dizziness can impact your ability to stay active and diminish your

quality of life. To help people better understand and manage this condition, Aspirus Heart Care is hosting a free seminar on May 7. The event will cover the relationship between AFib, stroke and heart failure, as well as treatment options. The seminar will take place at The Holiday Inn

Conference Center in Stevens Point from 6:30 to 8 p.m. While the event is free, registration is requested. Aspirus Heart Care specialists Dr. John Johnkoski, cardiothoracic surgeon, and Dr. Andrew Myktysey, an electrophysiologist, will provide insights into managing AFib. “Atrial fibrillation not

only disrupts normal heart rhythm but also significantly increases the risk of life-threatening complications like stroke and heart failure,” Johnkoski said. “For patients with AFib, the risk of stroke is approximately five times higher than for those with normal heart rhythms.” Topics include tradition-

al and minimally invasive approaches; catheter-based ablation techniques; and combined treatments that aim to reduce symptoms, prevent strokes and improve quality of life. “AFib arises from irregularities in the heart’s electrical signals, and timely diagnosis is crucial,” Myktysey said. “Without

proper management, prolonged episodes can lead to permanent changes in heart tissue and electrical function, making treatment more challenging. Early intervention is key to preserving heart health and preventing progression.” To register, call (800) 847-4707 or go to visit aspirus.org/classes-events

Happy  
MOTHER'S  
DAY



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Looking for a gentle soul to share your heart and home with? Meet Dexter, a quiet and tender-hearted pup who's ready to find his forever home.

Dexter may be a little shy when you first meet him, but give him a bit of patience and love, and you'll discover the most loyal companion you could ask for. Once he feels safe, Dexter blossoms into a cuddle bug who will shower you with affection and warmth. He's calm, well-mannered, and happiest when he's by your side - whether it's curling up on the couch or enjoying a peaceful stroll. If you're looking for a best friend with a gentle spirit and a big heart, Dexter might just be the perfect match. Come meet this sweet boy and see if he's the missing piece of your home!

Those interested in Dexter can fill out an adoption application online at <https://www.swchs.com/adopt/adoption-application/>

South Wood County Humane Society can be reached at [office@swchs.com](mailto:office@swchs.com) or 715-423-0505

Located at 3621 64th Street N. Wisconsin Rapids, WI 54494

Sunday and Monday: Closed  
Tuesday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Wednesday: Closed  
Thursday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Friday: 11:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Saturday: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

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Level: Intermediate

Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

1	2	8	3	7	4	6	9	5
3	9	6	9	2	8	7	1	4
7	9	4	9	1	6	3	8	2
6	1	9	7	3	2	9	4	8
2	8	3	4	9	9	7	6	1
4	7	9	6	8	1	2	3	9
9	4	7	8	6	9	1	2	3
9	6	1	2	9	3	8	7	4
8	3	2	1	4	7	9	9	6

# Raabe celebrates 100th birthday

FOR THE CITY TIMES

Tom Raabe, long-time resident of Wisconsin Rapids, celebrated his 100th birthday on April 17. Tom was born on Baker Street at the home of his grandparents, the late Harry and Margaret Blackburn. His parents are the late Henry and Ruth Raabe.

Tom grew up in Stevens Point, attending Saint Stevens Grade School and the newly completed P.J. Jacobs High School. He enjoyed playing on the football and basketball teams, and cornet in the band. He graduated in 1943.

Shortly thereafter, Tom was drafted into the U.S. Army, serving in the 29th Division during WW II, where he was on the front lines in the invasion of Germany. He attained the rank of PFC.

After the war, Tom attended Northern Illinois School of Optometry in Chicago, graduating in 1948. He married Terry Drapes in 1954, and together they raised five children. Their family includes nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Terry passed away in 2006.

Tom practiced optometry in Wisconsin Rapids for 56 years, retiring in



Tom Raabe always wears a paperboy hat, an ode to his youth as a member of the St. Stevens Paperboys of 1939. St. Stevens Grade School is in Stevens Point.

Submitted photos

2007. His many former patients will recall his office on the second floor in the Wood Block Building, located on the corner of 2nd Street and East Grand Avenue. Tom is a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and a long-time member of the Knights of Columbus.

Back in March, Tom began practicing for the coming golf season. His past achievements include a hole-in-one at the age of 66, a par at the age of 99 and an eagle in a bestball tournament that same year. He continues to reside at his home since 1967.



Tom Raabe at his 100th birthday celebration held at the VA clinic in Wisconsin Rapids. The plaque contains a letter from the Secretary of the Veterans Administration.



Tom Raabe stands in front of his office door at the close of his professional career in 2007 at the age of 82.

# Honor Flight Mission #51: What took you so long?

BY TINA L. SCOTT  
FOR THE CITY TIMES

James (Jim) K. Campbell, Jr. of Wausau is the Co-Founder and Vice President of Marketing for the Never Forgotten Honor Flight, Inc., and a retired Lt. Col. with the United States Marine Corps. These days, one of the first things he asks veterans on these flights is, “What took you so long?”

Many who completed the Never Forgotten Honor Flight Mission #51 on April 14, 2025, “have waited 15 years to apply!”

“About 50% of the qualified veterans—those who served prior to May 7, 1975—haven’t signed up or flown on their Honor Flight,” Campbell said.

He wants veterans who haven’t yet participated in this opportunity to know: “It’s your turn!” he said.

Campbell shared that he often hears the same responses time and again, when he asks the question. But those who do finally sign up for a Never Forgotten Honor Flight often become a source of encouragement for other veterans to do the same. He said there are five common reasons veterans give for not signing up.

**Top 5 reasons veterans don’t sign up**

1. “I don’t deserve it”  
Because “I wasn’t in combat.”  
Only 1 in 11 military personnel were combatants—



yet every job mattered. “The 1 didn’t fail or die because of the 10 who supported them,” Campbell said. “It’s the 99% of the population who didn’t wear the fabric of our nation’s military who don’t deserve it.”

2. “I’ve been to D.C. before”  
“All who’ve been there and then flew on an Honor Flight say the same thing,” Campbell explained. “It’s like I was never there!”
- Family vacations, reunions, duty assignments in D.C., or even going as a guardian don’t compare. “Most of the existing memorials hadn’t even been built when you were there before,” he added. And surprisingly, “Seeing the memorials doesn’t even make the top three list of veterans’ most liked experiences on an Honor Flight.”
3. Medical conditions  
“If your doctor approves,

we will take you,” Campbell said. Some veterans express concern, saying things like, “I don’t walk so good...” But Campbell reassures them: “We’ve taken veterans with no legs. They didn’t walk at all!”

4. Anger  
Many veterans—especially those who served in Korea and felt ignored, and those who served in Vietnam and felt blamed for the war—feel this way, Campbell said. “BUT, all who felt this way got closure after going on an Honor Flight.”
5. “I don’t want to relive my experiences”  
“Your mind is like a photo album; you won’t ever forget what you experienced,” Campbell said. “But the Honor Flight experience helps keep your mind’s photo album closed more than it’s open. Nightmares disappear. There’s closure after five or more decades.”

**Eligible veterans should apply now**

“Never Forgotten Honor Flight recognizes you for your sacrifices and achievements by flying you to Washington, D.C., to see YOUR memorials at no cost,” the application site reads. The goal is to provide veterans with a safe, memorable, and rewarding experience—with an emphasis on closure and healing.

“For what you and your comrades have given to us, please consider this a small token of appreciation from all of us at Never Forgotten Honor Flight,” the site adds.

Currently, applications are being accepted for WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans. Priority is given to:

- WWII veterans
- Veterans with a terminal illness
- Followed by Korean War veterans, then Vietnam War veterans

All veterans who served honorably are eligible for an Honor Flight if they served on Active Duty, Active Reserves, National Guard, or Inactive Ready Reserve (IRR)—in any branch of service—before May 7, 1975.

All Never Forgotten Honor Flights depart from Central Wisconsin Airport (CWA) in Mosinee, Wis.

For more information, call 715-573-8519 or visit [www.neverforgottenhonor-flight.org](http://www.neverforgottenhonor-flight.org).



# The Wealth InFormation Lady: Why do people build wealth?



## The Wealth InFormation Lady

BY LOUANN SCHULFER, AWMA®, AIF®  
ACCREDITED WEALTH  
MANAGEMENT ADVISOR SM  
ACCREDITED INVESTMENT  
FIDUCIARY®, PUBLISHED AUTHOR

Sometimes, you will hear someone say about another person, “They have money!” I have found that interesting as I have never worked with anyone who simply “has” money, whether it is \$1 million, \$10 million or any amount for that matter. Most everyone that I work with has earned

their money, managed their capital and intently grew their wealth. Even my clients who have been inheritors of assets know and appreciate the origins of their prosperity and work with me because they understand the responsibility and often the complexity they have been given.

So, if wealth is not just had by happenstance, we can appreciate that it is built with intent. So then, why do people do it? Why put forth the effort, make the sacrifices not to spend and take on the added responsibility to grow and manage wealth? For a few people, it is simply for the fun things money can eventually buy. Money may not be able to buy happiness but to a degree for all of us, it buys fun. There is nothing wrong with that. But most often, it is for far more than the amusement that money can buy. I have had profound conversations and have

deep respect for so many people who have built their wealth. I have a family of clients who have intently built wealth to “live well, be charitable and benefit children/family, particularly later in life without ruining anyone” with money. In fact, that is exactly what the top of each of our appointments’ agendas state so that we may keep their purpose front and center. I have another set of clients who have articulated that the most important thing for them is to have the means to help anyone in their family who may have a financial emergency. They want to be

that couple that solves the money part of the problem. I have had lengthy conversations with business owners who have built multiples of tens of millions of dollars of business value simply because they strive to be the best in their field and believe in their mission. The money is a by-product. A reward. But money is not what has driven them. If it were, they would have stopped long ago and enjoyed their money rather than continue to work. I have had others who want to set an example for their children and grand-

children, to be good financial citizens and responsible stewards of money. Another built wealth because he saved his family’s company from bankruptcy, which rescued far more than the family’s finances. I believe that the wealth that is built and kept is the wealth that was created with a purpose. That is why people build wealth. LouAnn Schulfer can be reached at (715) 343-9600 or [louann.schulfer@lpl.com](mailto:louann.schulfer@lpl.com) TheWealthInFormationLady.com. Securities and advisory services offered through LPL Financial, a registered investment adviser.



## Drivers urged to use caution in work zones

**FOR THE CITY TIMES**  
Construction season is approaching, which means crews will soon be out fixing and building roads and bridges. Drivers have one of the biggest roles in keeping work zones safe for construction crews. The Wisconsin State Patrol’s April Law of the Month encourages drivers to help create a safe space for crews who work on and alongside the road. “Construction crews and county highway personnel often work within feet of traffic,” said Superintendent Tim Carnahan said. “These people need to be able to rely on drivers to do their part to ensure a safe work zone. The Wisconsin State Patrol is working to combat unsafe driving in work zones with the help of troopers on the road and overhead with our Air Support Unit. Last year, we issued over 7,000 citations and warnings for traffic law violations in work zones.” Speeding, following too closely, and distracted driving cause most work-zone crashes. These crashes are preventable. According to

preliminary data for Wisconsin, there were 2,174 work zone crashes in 2024, resulting in 10 fatalities and 779 injuries. On average, that is one work zone crash every three hours. **Work zone safety tips**  
Driving safely and slowly through work zones will protect workers and motorists. Wisconsin’s laws further protect road workers, with penalties for traffic violations doubling in work zones. Do your part to keep work zones safe with these tips:  
• Buckle up, phone down. Eliminate distractions. State law prohibits the use of hand-held electronic devices in work zones, except to report an emergency. Looking down for just 5 seconds at 55 mph takes a driver’s eyes off the road for the length of a football field.  
• Plan ahead. Leave early or take an alternate route when construction is anticipated. Know before you go with 511 Wisconsin. Download the 511 Wisconsin app or call 5-1-1 for the latest

travel information across the state.  
• Expect the unexpected. Speed limits may be reduced, traffic lanes may be shifted, and crews may be working on or near the road.  
• Keep your distance. Rear-end collisions are common in work zones, so give yourself extra space.  
• Be patient. If you don’t see workers, that doesn’t mean they’re not there. Always be watchful for workers and vehicles throughout the work zone.  
• Move over or slow down for stopped emergency vehicles with warning lights activated. The Move Over Law requires drivers to move out of the lane closest to a maintenance worker or emergency responder. If you can’t move over, slow down.  
• Use the zipper merge strategy when lanes are reduced; take alternating turns to merge. View the April Law of the Month video and news release online: [wisconsin.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/law/lom.aspx](http://wisconsin.gov/Pages/about-wisdot/newsroom/law/lom.aspx).

Community news online.

WRCityTimes.com

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- CLUES ACROSS**  
1. McCarthy acolyte Roy  
5. Ancient Korean chiefdoms  
10. Not soft  
14. Jai \_\_, sport  
15. Philosophy  
16. Do what you're told  
17. Gaffe  
18. Widely known and esteemed  
19. Amusement park attraction  
20. Popular comic strip Viking  
22. Usually has a lid  
23. American sportscaster  
24. Lung fibrosis  
27. General's assistant (abbr.)  
30. Pouch  
31. Upset  
32. Partner to hem  
35. Astronomy unit of distance  
37. Witch  
38. Gradually disappear  
39. Regions  
40. Possesses  
41. Body parts  
42. A way to comprehend  
43. Defraud  
44. Sandwich type  
45. Expression of disappointment  
46. Popular Dodge truck model  
47. The 17th letter of the Greek alphabet  
48. Soviet Socialist Republic  
49. Songs to a beloved  
52. Custom  
55. Partner to cheese  
56. West Indies trees  
60. Member of a Semitic people  
61. Plant that originated vegetatively  
63. Squandered one's money  
64. Ethiopian river  
65. Excessive fluid

- accumulation in tissues  
66. Acquire by one's efforts  
67. Irish goddess  
68. Hungarian village  
69. Cereal grasses  
**CLUES DOWN**  
1. Currency  
2. Ceramic jar  
3. Reagan's Secretary of State  
4. God worshipped in Kanesh  
5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)  
6. Semitic  
7. About blood  
8. Benign tumors  
9. Move one's head  
10. Hours (Spanish)  
11. Hebrew calendar month  
12. Advise someone  
13. Colors clothes  
21. The sun does it  
23. Concealed  
25. City of Angels hoops team (abbr.)  
26. Droop

27. Away from one another  
28. Challenges  
29. A harsh scraping sound  
32. Attaches to a wall  
33. Capital of Ethiopia: \_\_ Ababa  
34. German river  
36. Disappointed  
37. Star Wars character Solo  
38. Supervises flying  
40. Not mass-produced  
41. Nonsense  
43. Automobile  
44. Hogshead (abbr.)  
46. Soak in water  
47. Flower cluster  
49. Romanian city  
50. A parent is often one  
51. Fencing sword  
52. Body part  
53. Region  
54. Farm building  
57. Ali's surname at birth  
58. Waxy bird beak covering  
59. Stiff bristles  
61. VCR button  
62. Small amount

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Rummage Sales This Week7200

Wisconsin Rapids: Friday, 5/2-Saturday, 5/3, 8 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Home furnishings, wall decorations, toys, playhouse, infant & toddler boy clothes, ladies clothes, electronics, high chair, stroller, car seat, Pack-n-Play, youth bed, twin bed, glider, TV stand, rocking chair, bar stools, Rattan chairs, overstuffed chair w/ottoman and much more 3831 Heritage Ridge Drive

Rummage Sales Upcoming7202

Garage Sale

2621 Brahms Way - Wis. Rapids

Wednesday May 7th 8am to 6pm

Thursday May 8th 8am to 6pm

Friday May 9th 8am to 6pm

Saturday May 10th 8am to noon

Antique and Vintage collectibles, tools, books, comic books, jewelry, bottles, vintage wooden crates, fishing items, canning supplies, Tupperware, cast iron skillet and much, much more.

Estate Sales7208

JR's Estate Services

May 3 Sat. 9:00-4:00

May 4 Sun. 10:00-2:00

4640 Ridgeview Court, Wisconsin Rapids 54494

This estate sale offers the opportunity for high value shopping at great prices. This home located near The Ridges Golf Course in Wisconsin Rapids is full of an interesting variety of high quality items. A small sampling of those items includes: **Jewelry:** 1/2 carat Diamond Necklace, other Fine jewelry including gold/diamonds/silver, dozens of vintage pins, Disney items, watches. **Furniture:** 50" 4K UHD TV, pair of Italian marble-topped Weiman side tables, marble top vintage dresser, large elegant entertainment center, vintage pantry cabinet, crib frame, Drexel buffet, gun case, multiple china cabinets, glass bar cart, metal serving cart, vintage mahogany chair & drum table, blanket chests, coat trees, lamps, wicker chest, tile-top living room table set, various upholstered side chairs, Amana upright freezer, 2 fridge/freezer combos. **Décor:** extra large wall mirrors, faux flowers/arrangements, framed art, many coastal themed items, holiday. **Collectibles:** vintage currency and coins including US, confederate and foreign, various GB Packer items, stamps, Bossons Chalkware heads, Bart Starr autographed football, sports cards & figures, Fenton glass, white hob-nail pieces, 1950's Wisc Rapids Taxi items, vintage photos and paper ephemera. **Kitchen:** extensive array of stemware and other glassware, vintage flatware sets, 51 pc Wallace Sterling Silver Flatware/Servers Set in case, Le Crueset Dutch Oven/Grill Pan NIB, Tupperware, Osterizer Blender, Vitamix 5200 Blender, canning jars-various sizes, Oxo canisters, cake stands, Cutco, Wilton, Instant Pot Duo Plus, barware, other small appliances. **Household:** Ladies footwear sizes 7-8, Ladies clothing dressy and casual (sizes XS-L including many petite), purses, Toby Weston tapestry handbags, vintage Mister Ernest beaded handbag, many vintage hats, vintage infant/toddler clothing, throw pillows, antique & vintage hand-stitched and tied quilts, Dresden Plate hand-quilted king size quilt, Noritake China, American Limoges China w/22k gold trim, steamer, Step2Bed mobility stool, JazzySelect Elite ES motorized scooter, SpanAmerica therapeutic mattress. **Garage/Outdoor:** Ryobi cordless blower, gardening tools, flower pots, hand tools, hardware, yard tools, metal lawn bench & chairs, pet crates, Radio Flyer wagon, Packer stadium seats, golf club set, and so much more. **Special Notes:** Numbers will be handed out starting 30 minutes prior to the sale on Saturday only. Numbers determine order of entry when sale opens. All items are sold AS IS with no guarantees. Card payments of \$100 and up incur 3% processing fee. Sales tax will be applied to all purchases per Wisconsin State Statute. **For updates and photos follow our Facebook and Instagram pages - JR's Estate Services.**

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# Showstopper: The nickelodeon

BY KRIS LEONHARDT  
SENIOR EDITOR

*Continued from previous week*

Phillip's son, J.P., was forced to quit his elementary education at the Catholic school and help out in the hall, as well as the family farm. By the age of 11, he was organizing a team of "bill boys" who promoted the numerous shows, after-school and on weekends.

Though Philip Adler was looking to fill a niche with his businesses, he was often striving just to stay ahead. When Adler learned of a group of investors planning to build another opera house in the city, he added a stage and changed the venue's name to the "Adler Opera House."

The added stage increased the Opera House's draw. Coupled with Adler's

other business interests, the responsibilities of the House became too much. Adler looked to outside management to ease his workload.

While Philip concentrated on his other concerns, the young J.P. acted as stage manager, while heading up the family's bill posting business, Marshfield Poster Advertising.

During the following years, under hired management, many changes occurred within the film industry. Distributors formed exchanges who now rented out moving films to dedicated movie houses. Traveling projectionists set up storefronts with little effort and began to show films.

With the supply of films ever increasing, film exchanges began charging more for new films. This set a standard for years to



The Adler bill boys, led by J.P. Adler at center, in the late 1890s.  
North Wood County Historical Society/J.P. Adler family collection

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ing a gold-rush business in the midst of the economic recession of 1907," Eileen Bowser wrote in The Transformation of Cinema 1907-1915.

"In downtown entertainment districts, the nickel shows congregated in the same blocks with the herd instincts of overdue city buses. The shows ran continuously from morning to evening.

"By 1908 or 1909, only the very smallest towns lacked a moving-picture theater of some sort."

Small picture houses began popping up around the city of Marshfield, which did little to secure the steady operation of the Adler Opera House. After four years of declining management, Philip leased the hall to his now 21-year-old son, J.P.

The activities within the film industry during prior years placed J.P. in a challenging position as he entered the business. With fierce competition from the nearby Unique Theater, J.P. knew he would have to be innovative to succeed.

Little did he know, it was just the beginning.

*To be continued*

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